

CLAIMS

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What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) A collection vessel for collecting and transferring a body fluid specimen comprising: a hollow body having a first and a second end; a first seal at said first end; a plunger disposed within said hollow body between said first end and said second end; said plunger providing a second seal; a plunger lock coupled to said plunger; said plunger lock being configured to selectively maintain said plunger at said second end when at least a portion of said hollow body between said first seal and said second seal is at least partially evacuated; said plunger lock further configured to release said plunger, thereby allowing said plunger to move toward said first seal within said hollow body [;].

2. (Original) A collection vessel for collecting and transferring a body fluid specimen according to claim 1, further comprising: an airtight junction that interrupts said hollow body forming a first section and a second section; said first section having said first seal; said second section having said plunger and said plunger lock; said airtight junction configured to allow for separation of said first and said second section and coupling of a transfer needle to said second section.

3. (Original) A collection vessel for collecting and transferring a body fluid specimen according to claim 1, wherein said hollow body has the shape of a hollow cylinder.